Timely Tidings

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1998

Programs of Excellence Named by Superintendent Delaine Eastin

California Department of Education

Superintendent of Public Instruction Delaine Eastin has announced the selection of nineteen programs throughout California as *Programs of Excellence* within the Adult Education office of the California Department of Education. The nineteen programs will join the existing eleven *Programs of Excellence* from 1997-98 (see side-bar page 2).

These programs have been recognized for their level of performance that exceeds certain quality benchmarks established by the Department of Education. Each program has demonstrated efforts above and beyond the norm to develop a program exhibiting "Best Practice" techniques.

The selection process was administered by the Staff Development Institute (SDI), a special project of the Adult Education office. Thirty-eight agencies submitted applications detailing their programs. From this group, twenty-nine agencies were selected for site visits. Site visits were conducted by teams with expertise in the nominated program's area and recommendations were submitted to the selection committee. The nineteen programs selected met or exceeded the criteria for a *Program of Excellence* designation.

The nineteen programs selected will serve as models for others in adult education along with the eleven current *Programs of Excellence* selected last year. These programs deliver their services in an exemplary manner across four adult education roles: worker, community member, parent, and lifelong learner. Their techniques and practices can be replicated by other programs to improve planning, classroom organization, and community collaborations for better service to all adult learners.

The nineteen *Programs of Excellence* for 1998-99 are:

- Baldwin Park Continuing and Adult Education–Adult Basic Education
- Burbank Adult School–Parent Education
- Eastside Adult Education–Vocational Education
- Eastside Adult Education–Older Adults
- Fairfield-Suisun Adult School–Parent Education
- Grossmont Adult Education–Parent Education
- Hacienda La Puente Adult School–Adults with Disabilities
- Hacienda La Puente Adult School–Distance Learning
- LAUSD/Division of Adult and Career Education–Distance Learning
- LAUSD/Garfield Community Adult School–Family Literacy
- Napa Valley Adult School–Citizenship
- Sacramento City USD/Skills and Business Education Center–Vocational Education
- A. Warren McClaskey Adult Center–Adults with Disabilities
- Salinas Adult School–Parent Education
- Winterstein Adult Center–Distance Learning
- Santa Clara Adult Education Center–English as a Second Language
- Santa Clara Adult Education Center–Family Literacy

(More inside…)

- Santa Clara Adult Education Center–Adults with Disabilities
- Simi Valley Adult School and Career Institute–Vocational Education

California Department of Education Certificates will be awarded to the programs at district board meetings by Joan Polster, State Director of Adult Education and Mary Weaver, Assistant Superintendent, Education Support Systems Division. The programs will be highlighted on the SDI website in the coming months.

Programs of Excellence Applications for 1998-99 Are Now Available

The 1998-99 applications for *Programs of Excellence* are now available at the Staff Development Institute. Approximately 560 applications have been mailed to adult education sites throughout the state during the week of September 21. Additional copies are available at SDI by calling (800) 488-1788 or copies can be downloaded from the SDI website at http://www.otan.dni.us/webfarm/sdi under "Excellence."

This year's application will include Workplace Learning as a program area and contain some revisions to last year's format. All applications are to be returned to the Staff Development Institute by January 15, 1999.

Programs of Excellence Recognized at ACSA

Nineteen programs from thirteen adult education agencies were recognized for their selection as *Programs of Excellence* at the Association for California School Administrators (ACSA) Conference held on September 24 in Sacramento.

These programs have been selected through a process conducted by the Staff Development Institute (SDI) and selected for their outstanding achievement in service to adult learners. Members of the sites who were attending the conference received a certificate presented to them by Joan Polster, State Director of Adult Education, and Margaret Kirkpatrick, Director of SDI. Additional information regarding these sites and last year's *Programs of Excellence* can be found at the SDI website http://www.otan.dni.us/webfarm/sdi.

Programs of Excellence Flags to be Raised Across the State

Students, faculty and staff will gather at several adult education sites across the state Wednesday, December 2 at 1:00 pm to raise a new flag identifying themselves as a *Program of Excellence*. These flags, designed by staff members of the Staff Development Institute, portray the *Programs of Excellence* logo along with the identified exemplary program.

These sites are selected throughout the state as offering an exemplary program within the Adult Education Office of the California Department of Education. Designation as a *Program of Excellence* identifies them as outstanding, with a level of performance that exceeds certain quality benchmarks established by the California Department of Education. They each exhibit "Best Practice" techniques in the delivery of instruction, leadership, planning, accountability and meeting the needs of its community.

Administration and students will be available to talk about the successes following the unveiling of the new flag on Tuesday as well as stakeholders and district representatives present at the ceremony.

Scholarship Recipients Present at Conferences

Several recipients of the California Department of Education Scholarship Program presented projects to two educational conferences as part of the criteria for receiving scholarship funding. These recipients are currently seeking either the Tier 1 or Tier 2 Administrative Services Credential or a Masters in Education Administration. Each is also planning a career in adult school administration.

Presenters at Delaine Eastin's, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, *School's In* Conference on August 10 in Sacramento were:

- **Tim Taylor**–*Partner's Preschool*
- **Carol Ruhm**–*School to Work Learning Lab*
- **Bob Bower** and **Rosie Gonzalez**–*Using Assessment Screening, Powerpath to Adult Basic Education, for Learning Disabled Students*
- **Beatriz Pascual**–*Employment Preparation Center*

Presenters at the Association for California School Administrators (ACSA) Conference on September 24 in Sacramento were:

- **Lynn Parr Bartlett**–*Running Parent University*
- **Cynthia Diaz**–*Career Center*
- **Alice Schultz**–*Six Inservices for Teachers: What is an Adult School, Adult School Student, Teaching Theory, Create Presentations, Courses for the Adult Learner*
- **Karen Kile Bautista**–*Peer Coaching Model*

These presentations were well received and each recipient is to be congratulated on their projects relevant to adult education. Be on the look-out for more project presentations at future adult education conferences.

1997-98 Leadership Academy Graduates Recognized at ACSA

The Adult Education Academy Class of 1997-98 graduates were recognized at the noon general session of the Association of California School Administrator Association (ACSA) Conference on September 24 in Sacramento. The Leadership Academy, presented through the Staff Development Institute (SDI) and directed by Paul Belomy, focuses on developing skills that assist adult educators within their agencies in leadership roles. Each graduate has successfully completed an intensive four-day training scheduled throughout the year, and have submitted projects identifying current issues and implementing positive change at their agency.

Certificates were presented to attending graduates by Joan Polster, Administrator of the Adult Education Office, California Department of Education, Margaret Kirkpatrick, Director of SDI, and Paul Belomy. Photographs of the presentation can be seen on the SDI website at http://www.otan.dni.us/webfarm/sdi.

Congratulations to the Class of 1997-98!

New California Regional Resource Center Website

Checkout the new California Regional Resource Center's website at http://www.otan.dni.us/webfarm/sdi/crrc/crrc.html. These recently updated sites contain a wealth of information with resource and service pages, online workshop registration on the calendar page, and an online needs assessment survey. In addition, be sure to look at the "website of the month" on the resource page for pertinent or interesting information helpful to adult educator's in California.

Soon at Teacher Training Online: Software Evaluation

In Jeffrey W. Bauer's **Tips for Using and Evaluating Educational Software**, a very common scene is described. It's a scene where precious teacher time is chewed up by inadequate, poorly designed and computer-locking software. The teacher loads, unloads, boots, re-boots, configures and re-configures software and hardware.

With the new technologies coming at us faster than we can keep up with, it is important to know how to select and evaluate appropriate software for the classroom. The scenario described above is too often a common practice among uninitiated teachers. Time to teachers is very valuable and to streamline the work into a more efficient and effective method would be a great boon. How does an instructor effectively evaluate software for the classroom?

The newest online module for Teacher Training Online will answer that question. *Software Evaluation*—moderated by instructor Michael Babayco—will lay out a plan on how best to determine an effective method for choosing software in an educational setting. Types of software are explored as well as how they can be used in a school or vocational setting. Selection of appropriate software and various specific components are discussed along with hardware requirements. Additional topics discussed are: problems with checklists, use of reliable assessments, how to purchase the software, avoiding common evaluation problems, and making recommendations.

This module will be unveiled soon on the Teacher Training Online website at http://www2.otan.dni.us/tto. More announcements and news about online modules and courses will be at the SDI website at http://www.otan.dni.us/webfarm/sdi.

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